

City of Austin Proposed 2021 Technical Code Changes

MOVE TOGGLE COMMENTS OPTIONS

Engagement Period Statistics (February 1, 2021- March 14, 2021)

All Code Engagements

Filtered by Date

VIEWS	PARTICIPANTS	RESPONSES	COMMENTS
2,647	24	0	57

International Building Code (IBC) & International Existing Building Code (IEBC)

Engagement Period Statistics (February 22, 2021-March 14, 2021)

Project Engagement

Filtered by Date

VIEWS	PARTICIPANTS	RESPONSES	COMMENTS
67	6	0	7

Thank you for taking on this effort. As an architect working in multiple jurisdictions around the country I appreciate the review and reduction of amendments. I would encourage you to continue to reduce the amount of amendments.

I think it would also be helpful to provide a commentary portion on why amendments exist to help understand the intent when complying. Many jurisdictions provide commentary or interpretation logs on their websites to provide feedback to the design community as to why or how amendments are applied.

Specific to this round of work my comments are:

1101.2. I think the last line of the exception does not read clearly. Is the intent for the building code to override TAS conflicts?

My other comment is related to utilizing the uniform plumbing code vs. IBC. It would be good to provide reasoning as to why that has always been in the amendments. Many other adjacent jurisdictions, and around the country have fully adopted the IBC without substituting other codes within in.

Thank you again for the hard work, and actually taking action. It's very refreshing to see.

Tony Keller

27 days ago

DSD will consider the request to provide a commentary document on the final adopted code changes.

The intent of 1101.2 is to allow design of accessibility features to follow either the Texas Accessibility Standards (TAS) or the International Building Code (IBC). The scope of accessibility requirements must comply with IBC. IBC has greater scoping requirements than the TAS for accessibility compliance.

The Austin City Council voted in 2017 to continue to use the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC). Either code can adapt to local needs by incorporating local amendments to reflect the values of Council and the community. If the Mechanical and Plumbing Board, City Council, or the State of Texas select a different option, that version will be adapted by staff to meet local needs as well.

8 days ago

Thank you for your work on this, we appreciate the return to base code on so many of these (especially open sides and separation distance). And the amendments that remain all seem thoughtful, intentional, and targeted. Appreciate the increase in 2902 to 50 for small businesses.

27 days ago

Thank you for your feedback.

8 days ago

Does the Exception to IBC Section 1101.2 mean that buildings under review and permit within the City of Austin will not have to comply with significant increase in accessibility requirements as published in the latest 2017 edition of ICC A117.1?

28 days ago

No, scoping requirements must continue to follow the International Building Code. The exception to IBC Section 1101.2 addresses the design of individual components. Those components may follow either the International Building Code (including A117.1) or the Texas Accessibility Standards.

8 days ago

Appreciate the reduction in amendments.

28 days ago

Thank you for your feedback.

8 days ago

Modifications to "1006.3.2 Single exits" appear to apply to 2021 IBC "1006.3.4 Single Exits"? It is not possible to review proposed modifications to or deletions from the 2021 IBC if the sections are not properly cited.

28 days ago

Our approach compares the text of the 2015 International Building Code to the 2021 International Building Code. We provide updated section numbers to reflect the 2021 changes. The goal of this approach is to make it easy to find new published code sections when a section is deleted or modified. We will consider your feedback for future code change presentations.

8 days ago

The annual permit provisions of the 2021 IEBC should be modified to allow for alignment with the Strategic Housing Blueprint so that emergency repairs, repairs and alterations will not be as costly.

28 days ago

The City has taken steps to make permitting processes faster and less costly for repairs, remodels, and Express Permits.

Emergency repairs can begin before applying for a permit on the next business day. Most emergency repairs do not need a plan review. Also, inspectors can issue most emergency repair permits on site. Notably, permitting and development fees and some other requirements were waived until March 31, 2021, for repairs related to the 2021 winter storm.

Most minor repair work qualifies for a Quick-Turnaround (QT) review. QT reviews provide 24-hour (next business day) processing. QT reviews cost less than reviews for other modifications to existing or new structure permits. The Development Services Department is currently developing a Commercial Express Permit process, which will require less documentation and enable same-day permitting.

The local amendments to the code add to the types of work that do not require a permit and provide for the City Building Official to add more to that list, supporting the goal of the Strategic Housing Blueprint to streamline City codes and permit processes.

8 days ago 

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